

## Board Meeting – Minutes

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 7-9pm  
Echo Room, Minto Rec. Centre

Members Present: Claire B, Tracey F, Lisa C, Estelle M, Shawn R, Lindsay W, Rob M, Lisa T, Eric P, Kim Leclair and Glenn B.

Members Absent: Rob S.

### President

1. Approval of minutes of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Approved.

### VP Operations

2. First ice cheques have been received.
3. Teams have been informed about playoffs/playdowns.
4. Provincial bonds. Have been paid. Those who qualify will get email informing them of the process.
5. Rooms for House DIFD are confirmed.

### Administration

6. NGHAs tracksuits:
  - The bids from the three vendors were reviewed. SourceForSports was considered the leading bid. The Board will engage with them further to discuss details and further options for style, and possibly price.
    - Tracksuits would be mandatory for all players.
    - House doesn't normally have clothing so this would be new to them.
    - There was discussion regarding costs and the possibility of subsidising the cost of the tracksuits; at least for the first one.
  - Policy updates would be required - 'grace period', for example.
  - Further discussions at the next Board Meeting.
7. Wildcats Day - Raised \$1,400 for snow suit fund.
  - Suggestion to book entire Minto in early October and create more of a "Season Opener" weekend. Have both HL and competitive teams involved.
  - When teams are formed, let them know of date so away tournaments are not booked that day
8. Board should consider a new 'Events Coordinator' role – perhaps to convene a sub-committee for events under Estelle's leadership.
9. Use of the Wildcats logo by external commercial entities.
  - NGHAs had received an email from a company asking if they could produce apparel with the logo.
  - There was general agreement that we should get something back in return.
  - We should develop guidelines, pricing options and enforcement. Suggestion to establish a list of approved vendors that is published on the website.

### Policy

10. Policy Review [Schedule](#) - Update on policies in process and next planned review cycles.
11. Policy for Discussion - Competitive Team Formation
  - This policy needs an update. Elements for inclusion and improvement were discussed. To be presented and discussed at the next Board.
12. Policy for Approval - Social Media Policy – Approved.
  - Posting game videos. Preference for private group that requires subscription.
  - Photos/Names. Need to create a form for teams to use at the start of the season with what limitations the parents want.
  - Email and texting not considered 'social media'. This should be covered in Code of Conduct policy.
13. [Suspension Policy](#)
  - Updated and incorporate suggestions. Intent is to make it extremely clear what needs to be done by who.

## **Competitive**

14. More than 30 applications were received to be competitive coaches for the 2025-2026 season. Interviews are to start next week.
15. Dates for tryouts have been decided and announced to the organisation via the newsletter. They will begin on Tuesday, April 22nd and conclude on Saturday, May 17th. The NGHA website will be updated in the next week or so.
16. Working with the Policy Sub-Committee on the 'Team Formation Policy'. The intention is to provide more clarity on how competitive teams are formed.
17. DIFD Comp tournament was a huge success. Many thanks go out to all our volunteers. Happy to report that the NGHA took home four (4) gold and three (3) silver. Congratulations to all teams.
18. Playoff and Playdown information has been shared with all teams through the Convenors.

## **House**

19. DIFD House league tournament is coming up. Preparations well under way.
20. Coach feedback surveys were sent to parents mid-January. Results are still being collected.
21. We are preparing to open our house league coach application process for the 2025-2026 season. The application process will open mid-February and will close in late May. We will be sharing the application with our teams, on our website and on our social media channels.
22. Bursary applications will be open in March. Emails will be shared through convenors (both house and competitive). We will also share via social media. The website will be updated.
23. Championship weekend coming up – we have decided on a 'Friendship' theme and are working on this initiative. Championship weekend is a big deal for house league. It includes our annual Grad game, where we honour our graduating players. Players and coaches really look forward to it.
  - We are motioning for \$2,000 to help cover the costs of running championship weekend, our Grad game, and to help offset costs of food over the weekend for volunteers. We will also be seeking some sponsorship opportunities to help reduce costs. Motion approved.
24. A game was held at Walter Baker in honour of a player whose mother passed away. It was very well attended. Players and coaches from all teams across the division attended to show their support for the player and their family. We motioned for \$200 to help contribute to a meal fund the player's team was organizing in support of the family. Motion approved.
  - Moving forward, donations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## **Programs**

25. Updates
  - Wildcats Day – Raised \$1400 dollars for snow-suit funds.
  - Development sessions have been good and very successful.
  - Moved to biweekly for APEX and goalies.
  - APEX house leagues sold out.
  - Mentorship program up and running.
    - Six (6) mentee teams at house and competitive levels with U18 and U22 teams providing mentors.

## **Finance**

26. The Association is in a robust financial position, and it's estimated there will be approximately \$500k in the operating bank account once ice bills are paid. The Bingo account also has reasonable funds.
  - There was some discussion on how some of this money could be used to reduce costs for players/families. To be discussed at the next Board.
27. As a starting point we will do the same as last year; each HL team gets \$1k from Bingo, and each competitive team will get \$1k off their final ice invoice funding through the operating account.
28. In discussion with a bookkeeper.
29. Timekeepers – One cheque to Drew and he disperses to the timekeepers.
30. It was suggested that the Association could manage its money better by, for example, moving to and from high interest savings accounts to generate more interest than the standard checking account. Options are to be explored.

31. WNPAC – This money is for travel.
32. Bursaries – Need to confirm where the money is sourced.

**Any Other Business**

33. Questions have been raised regarding the conduct of some parents. There was discussion about how complaints should be received and the consequences of poor behaviour; up to and including dismissal from the Association.
34. There was a suggestion to run a checking clinic at the start of the year to demonstrate how to start playing contact hockey. Eric to investigate.

**Date of next meeting:** March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.